

Christopher Cano
April 13, 2023
FY 2024 Operating Budget

Members of the Montgomery County Council,

As you take up the most important item this year, the operating budget for fiscal year 2024, I would implore you to consider what not fully funding all county services will mean. First responders like our firefighters not having life saving equipment. Police officers understaffed and unable to adequately respond to safety concerns. Special needs children in our school system without support and guidance. Maintenance in our public buildings falling short, putting our health and safety at risk. Many of these scenarios are already a reality. Do not exacerbate them further by failing to fully fund the budget. This includes supporting the revenue enhancements put forward by the County Executive to fund our school system. The cost of raising taxes is a challenge that no public official wishes to shoulder. Yet, I ask you, what is the cost of inaction? Who will you prioritize funding? Fire rescue, police, social workers, healthcare, teachers? Who will you cast aside for the sake of saving folks a few dimes in their taxes? Special needs children, building maintenance workers, bus drivers? The fact is you need not make these hard choices. You but need to make the courageous one, and fully fund the operating budget for all county services with the needed revenue enhancements to support our school system in Montgomery County. Do not ask the children of this county to bear the burden of budget shortfalls and a lack of political will. Stand up today for our children, our educators, and our hard-working public workers.

Thank you.